

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

OMB-01 SAM-01 /074 W

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R 281405Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8449

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG MO

SUBJECT: KING ANNOUNCES MILITARY PROMOTIONS

1. KING PARTICIPATED IN APRIL 26 CEREMONY DURING WHICH HE PROMOTED AND DECORATED A NUMBER OF FIELD GRADE OFFICERS. INCLUDED IN PROMOTION LIST WAS SOUTHERN FORCES COMMANDER (AND KING'S AIDE DE CAMP AND INTELLIGENCE CHIEF) AHMED DLIMI, WHO PROMOTED TO COLONEL MAJOR. KING ANNOUNCED REPLACEMENT OF DLIMI IN SOUTHERN COMMAND BY FORMER PARACHUTE BRIGADE COMMANDER COL. ABDENBI BRITEL. DLIMI SINGLED OUT FOR PARTICULAR PRAISE BY KING FOR HIS ROLE IN SAHARA OCCUPATION, AND ARMY ITSELF LAUDED FOR ITS "SACRIFICES" UNDER "PAINFUL CONDITIONS AND CLIMATE" AND IN A "DELICATE" "NO WAR, NO PEACE" SITUATION WHICH CALLED FOR "EXEMPLARY DISCIPLINE."

2. COMMENT. FOCUS OF PROMOTIONS, WHICH WERE THE FIRST SINCE THE 1971 AND 1972 COUP ATTEMPTS, WAS SAHARA. PROMOTION FREEZE HAS LONG BEEN A SOURCE OF DISCONTENT AMONG MILITARY. KING UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO INCREASINGLY FACED WITH ANOMALY OF PROMOTION FREEZE AND A
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NEWLY EQUIPPED AND RAPIDLY EXPANDING ARMY THRUST INTO PROMINENT

NATIONAL ROLE. REWARDS WERE THUS DUE, AND DATT HAS HEARD THAT MORE PR
O-
MOTIONS AMONG LOWER RANKS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON ARMED FORCES DAY, MAY
14. DLIMI REPLACEMENT AND PROMOTION COMES ON HEELS OF RUMORS THAT HE
WOUNDED, IN DOGHOUSE WITH KING FOLLOWING AMGALA II, OR BOTH.
AFTER PERIOD OF NOTABLE ABSENCE FROM PUBLIC GATHERINGS, HE NOW VERY
MUCH BACK IN LIMELIGHT AND WE JUDGE THAT, IF THERE EVER WAS ANY
SIGNIFICANCE TO HIS DISAPPEARANCE IT HAS PASSED. PROMOTIONS ALSO
REFLECT GROWING CONFIDENCE ON PART OF KING, A CONCLUSION WHICH
REINFORCED BY APPARENT MOVEMENT TOWARD ELECTIONS THIS YEAR (BEING
REPORTED SEPARATELY). AT SAME TIME, IT NOTEWORTHY THAT
KING DID NOT MAKE ANY NEW GENERALS, EVEN OF COLLABORATOR DLIMI.
THE PAINFUL MEMORY OF OUFKIR OBVIOUSLY LINGERS.
ANDERSON

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